

*A pitbie,*  
**And most ear=**  
*nest exhortation, concerning*  
**the estate of Christian-**  
**dome, together with the meanes**  
*to preserve and defend*  
**the same;**

**DEDICATED**  
*To al christian Kings Prin-*  
**ces and Potentates, with all other**  
**the estates of Chri-**  
**stian dome:**

**By a Germaine Gentleman, a louer of his**  
**Countrey.**

**Printed at Antwerpe.**

**ANNO D. 1583.**

of public

And  
*John*

done together with the minutes

REPORTED

and the minutes of the

of the same

Printed at New York

ANNO D. 1833



# To all Christian Kinges, Princes and Poten-

tates, with all other the  
estates of Chri-  
stendome.



If we would in the bal-  
lance of vnderstanding  
weye and ponder what  
foeuer the counsels &  
actions which we con-  
ceau in other mens af-

fares and busines, we should no dout  
builde the whole estate of our life vp-  
on a more assured foundation, & with  
al eschue an infinite number of cala-  
mities aswell publique as perticuler  
which now we do incurre. For the ex-  
amples of other mens perils and los-  
ses, being the mozte faithfull teachers  
and expert guids of this present life,  
would make vs more warie and stand  
vs in stead of a rule whereby to direct  
al our enterprises, determinations, &  
the cōduct of al our affairs. This kind  
of wisedome haue the mozte circum-

spect in all ages, accounted to be, not onely of the greatest profite, but also most milde and tollerable, and which doth yeelde greatest contentation to the practitioners of the same.

Howbeit it happeneth for the most part, that in the gouernmēt & directiō of our affaires we be so altered, either with hope, or feare, or some other humane frailty or infirmity, that we can not cōprehend or forsee the mischief which euē at hand hangeth ouer our heads, vntil it hath vtterly snared and caught vs through some sudden & vnlooked for fall & ruine, and so we dee fully suffer the punishment due to our dulnes & negligence: Whereby notwithstanding we do many times wisely enter into the consideration of other mens affairs, yet in case our selues be to eschue the like perilles, it falleth ordinarily out, that either in pondring the waightines of the matter, either amazed with doubt of the vncertain euent therof, either waiting that others first set to their handes, either hoping time enough to be able to provide therefore, we do so prolōg our busines  
that

that the cōmodity & occasiō escaping vs, al this goodly wisdome, and wary forecast that we had conceiued in the consideration of the exāples of other mens mischāces, vanissheth into smoke & so sodēly wereth away, that we cānot thereof reape any fruit or commodity.

Hitherto was there neuer prouince, Towne, or valeant & vertuous citizen, but did account their safety, libertye & cōmon quiet to depend vpō the moderat & peaceable gouernmēt of their mightiest borderers: as also that nothing went so nere thē, or was of such importance, as their neighbors to establish their estate in iustice, or moderat affection, & in peaceable cōteining thē selues within their owne bounds & limits, as it were within certaine strong bulwarks & barriers. And assuredly as ambitiō is euer to be feared & suspected in all maner of persōs, so is it most dangerous in those, who being alredy of great power & strength, cannot neuerthelesse bridle their couetous affections, how large soeuer the extent of their boundes & limites be : For sith it is vnpossible that any innouations,



or alterations in kingdomes and common wealths, can hapen without peruerting, molesting or general confounding of al things, it must necessarily follow that not only the bordering provinces, but also those countries which lie farther off, being tossed & turmoiled with the waues & billowes of such their neighbours ambition, shal finally bee entangled and swallowed vp in the gulse of so horrible calamitie.

For as the waues of the Ocean Sea, being tossed with some mighty storm & so swelling out of their banks & ordinary limittes, may at the first with final labor be restrained through some strong wall speedily erected & by the diligence of al the neighbours & borderers, each helping other in so great peril, opposed against thē: but hauing once pierced & made breach in a bank or two, & therby dispearfing thēselues & flowing ouer the whole champion country without restraint, cānot after ward either by power or policie be reduced, or stopped from breeding and working inestimable & ineuitable calamity

laminity among both men & cattell inhabiting the saide Countrey, but also oftentimes against whole towns, countries and Kingdoms lying further off: Euen so likewise ambitious Princes endeououring to enlarge their owne boundes and limits, although with other mens losses, may easily in the beginning of their enterprises bee repressed, and by a common consent and correspondence of their neighbours, generallye opposinge themselves against their attempts, be so restrained within their own bounds and limittes, that hardlye they shall put any to losse or other notable inconuenience: but hauing once passed their armies into other mens prouinces, and beeing aliured by the sweetenesse of taking some strong holde or place of importance, and so conceiuing some hope of further extending the boundes of their empire: and especially knowing their name to bee growne terrible amongst their neighbours, there is then no meanes, power, or force how great so euer, either a-

ny other let, that can stop the forcible course of their madde affection and franticke ambition, coueting to rule and command ouer others. This matter whosoeuer among the wisest haue heretofore considered ( as all those haue done, which thought it necessarye to vse discreet moderation in the conduct of their affaires ) haue euer holden this for a principle, namely that it is the duety of euerye good countriman, especially of Kings, princes and gouernours, not onely diligently and in time to see that the affayres of their Countreyes, people and prouinces be in good estate, and quietly and peaceably ordered, but also to preuent such Princes and neighbours as are prouoked by ambition and allured with desire of rule, from transporting any power, vnder whatsoeuer colour and pretence, into other mens dominions, also from all ambitious enlargeing of their own bounds & limits.

Vpon this grounde did the *Romans*, seeking euen in the beginning to suppress  
 presse



presse the power of the *Cartbagenians* and to set *Spayne* free from the *Africane* bondage, thinke it necessary to aide the *Mamertynes* whom they had besieged.

For this cause when *Antiochus* the noble, vnder title of the protectorship of his nephew, sought to seaze vppon *Egypt*, the said *Romans* commaunded him to desist, & content himself with the possession of his predecessors ancient dominions: and that generally they neuer suffered any prince or common wealth whatsoeuer to rise into too great power.

Hereupon also the *Venetians* both now and aforetime obtayned the name of wisdome & singuler forecast. For as they were neuer easily induced to new warres, so haue they alwaies neuerthelesse in such manner tempered their determinations and counsailes, that if any neighbour, either prince or common wealth, through immoderat desire of government, areared warre agaynst his borderers, their armies were still in readinesse as a helpe  
and

and safegard to the weaker party, to the end that thus restraining the forces of the Italian Princes & commonwealths in equall balance, they might kepe them from all hope of subduing them by force of armes, which perpetuall resolution of theirs is among all other excellent matters noted to bee the most certaine reason, whereby we see their common wealth not onely to haue flourished and prospered aboue a thousand years, but also in al vertue & wisdom to be growne into admiration among other nations. This was that Maxime which *Laurence de Medicis*, the wisest man in his time in *Italie*, did so earnestly and with so singular endeouour all his life time both followe and maintaine, vnto whome that great quietnesse and tranquillity which so long as he liued all *Italie* did enioy, was in the opinion of most historiographers attributed: For he so brideled the affections of the Italian Princes and souerainties, partly by councell and aduice, and partly by the power and authority of the Florentine

tine common wealth, wherof himselfe was chiefe gouernour, that if any, ambitiously passing his boundes and limits did enterprife ought against his neighbour, he was immediatly reduced into his duety by the mutuall power of other Princes and people vnitied together.

To be brieft, there is no wise man but seeth, knoweth, and is fully resolved, yea, and grievously accuseth that people, tearing them traytours to their Country, who eyther daunted with feare and cowardlinesse, or provoked with desire of rest and quietnesse, either drowned in retchlesnesse, or deteined in ciuill dissentions, haue so suffered their ambitious neighbors empire to encrease, that afterward being vnable to bear the brunt or withstand the power and might thereof, they haue beene forced with their owne eyes to see themselves suppressed, and their Country reduced into extreame misery and calamity. Yea, who is there among vs, that is not of opinion that the ancient *Gaules* might haue



haue liued in liberty & bin exēpt frō the *Romans* bōdage, if by cōmon cōūfel & cōsent they had altogether with stood the power of *Iulius Caesar*? But some standing as idle lookers vpo the subuersiō of their neighbors, & other with their owne weapons encreasing the power of the *Romaynes*, thinges grew in short space to that extremitie that the so mighty & large empire of the *Gaules* was in the ende restrained into a *Roman* prouince, & vtterly ouerwhelmed in most vile bondage.

Howe haue the *Italians* themselues sped? If at the beginning they had with a common power and army suppressed the rising of the *Romans*, and not suffered the *Antiates*, *Crustumniens*, *Centans* and *Latins* each one seuerally, also soon after the *Volſques*, *Æques*, *Sabins*, & then the *Samnites*, *Vmbres*, *Bru-tians*, *Hetrurians*, and other people by little and little one after another to haue stouped vnder their yoake: had they not first preserued their owne liberty, and then freed al other nations in *Europe* from that infamous bōdage wherunto they afterward fel? and yet  
did

did there not in manner any of them  
 reap any benefit of al these examples:  
 For notwithstanding they well weyed  
 other mens cases, yet was there none  
 that coulde accomodate the fruite of  
 such consideration to him selfe or his  
 own time. So that after *Italie*, immedi-  
 atly *Cicil*, the *Affrica*, & within a while  
 al *Asia*, & finally in a manner the vni-  
 uersal worlde being come vnder the  
 power of the *Romans*, felt the burden  
 of their folly. Through the like giddi-  
 nes & negligence, wherin the harts of  
 Christiā kings & princes haue hereto-  
 fore bene drowned, the *Saracens* haue  
 found oportunitie & means most villa-  
 nously to entrap & entangle the chie-  
 fest churches of *Asia*, *Affrica* & *Ægypt*,  
 vnder the lamentable yoke & bōdage  
 of *Mahomet*, through the which they  
 bee vtterly alienated from the true  
 knoweledge of the Heauenlye Do-  
 ctine : whose succession and tyranny,  
 the cruell Empire of the *Ottomans*,  
 which tooke their beeginning of so  
 contēptible an ofspring & is now (euē  
 with a trice) enhanced to such might,  
 as it haue penetrated not onely into  
 the

the dominions of *Asia & Affrica*, but also haue subuerted, ouerthrown and turned topsy turuy euen the inwarde Prouinces of *Europe*, haue seazed vpō. Yea it is euident to all men that most Christian kings and nations being either busied in their owne ciuil warres & domestical dissentions, either daunted with dastardlinesse, or swelling in ambition, little weening their neighbours losses to be in ought preiudicial vnto their estates, and each one feuerally supposing himselfe to haue of his own, power sufficiēt to turn the storm from him and his dominions, haue giuen the *Turkes* more leisure & oportunitie to execute their cruell determinations then them selues durste haue desired, or so much as once haue hoped for. So that had not the pollicy power of *Germany* withstoode their flame, and thought it expedient, by an Imperial decree, with the coniunction of their whole forces, coine & publique reuenues to preuent these proceedings of the *Ottomans*, long since had the whole Empire of Christian-  
dome



dome bene subuerted and wholly re-  
 duced into ashes: yea the very power  
 & strength of *Germany* was it which  
 alone heretofore withstoode the *Ro-*  
*mane* armies: For when all the rest of  
*Europe* together with the inhabitants  
 of *Affrica* and *Asia*, vnto the very *Per-*  
*sians* had vniuersally thorough their  
 aforesaid slouth accepted the yoke of  
 the *Romane* Empire, the *Germanes* on-  
 ly, assembling their whole forces togi-  
 ther, sundry times conquered and o-  
 uerthrewe their whole power, & some  
 times winning, sometimes loosing did  
 still so supply their armies, that the ci-  
 uil warres ensuing in the *Romane* Em-  
 pire, they with great force and in sun-  
 dry places, made diuers and notable  
 roades & inuasions into the said Em-  
 pire, & finally gathered such courage  
 that they taught those, who before  
 were inured in conquestes and victo-  
 ries, now not only to receiue the yoke  
 of the *Germane* Empire, but also did  
 vtterly subuert and in manner roote  
 them out, which their so valiaunt vic-  
 tories & noble valure can not by the  
 poste-

posterity be sufficiently extolled and commended.

Howbeit the more valiant and victorious that our predeceffours haue bene : the more maruelous, & among al honorable persons lamentable may it be, that thus degenerating from the auncient valeantise & victorious vertue of our forefathers, we do peceably beholde and quietly suffer the cruell and proud yoke of the Spanish tyranny (already extended almost ouer the whole worlde) thus leysurely to encroche vpon vs, to the end for euer to subuert both vs and our posterity together.

I wil not by comparifons of nations and Princes one with an other, make any name more odious then other (for al kind of feruitude is heauy and intollerable, and vtterly vnworthy any that beareth the face of a man) but I doubt whether the yoke of the *Spanish* nation, (drawing their petigree from the *Moores* and *Sarasens*, and of late through force and rigour of the inquisition forced vnwillingly to professe

fesse Christian Religion ) be any whit more tolerable then the *Turkish* bondage : Of my selfe I will affirme nothing , onely I referre the iudgement thereof to the inhabitants of *Granado*, the *Indians*, *Neopolitains* and others: notwithstanding vndoubtedly the *Romane* yoke, although it were through the greedy couetousnes of both Emperours and souldiours (who are saide to haue destroyed more confederate Cities with their garisons , then enemies townes with their armies) intolerable to all men: yet beeing compared with the pride, cruelty, and couetousnes of the *Spaniards*, may by reason of sundry most excellent vertues, wherewith it was endewed , be both termed, and accounted in lieu of bondage, liberty, and in stead of a forced obedience, a iust and lawful com mandement: but howsoeuer that case standeth, al the world doth plainely perceau e, that vnlesse in time it be looked vnto , and by some general consent and vnion of the counsaile and force of al other Kings & princes, the *Spanish* stand  
 B pur-



purposes be prevented and subverted, it wil shortly so come to passe that their strength being growne to perfection thorough the common negligence and want of consideration in all, those men shall ouer late begin to resist him, which now at pleasure and ease beholding the fire consuming the lowe countries, doe not thinke that the flame thereof doeth anye whit touch them, either consider that through their owe slouth and simple forecast, the coales of Spanishe ambition will in shorte space so kindle and take holde, that they will reduce both their owne territories, and the dominions of al other states and Princes into ashes.

Neither are they to suppose that this Fire of *Spanishe* ambition is to bee terminated with the Prouinces of *Brabant*, *Holland*, and *Zealand*, sith that already not onely the flakes and sparckles, but also the very firy flames thereof are flowen into *Italy*, *France*, *England*, *Scotland*, and *Germanie*: Yea and haue taken holde of almost al the habita-

habitable lande. And which is more, euen the *Spaniards* themselves do not forbear to rereporte that by a certaine celestiall constitution, the monarchie of the whole worlde is due vnto them, hauing as an earnest penny thereof, through their owne power and might, conquered a new world to our auncesters heretofore vnknown, which they haue beautified with lawes and customes, polished with maners and discipline, and indued, and instructed in the Romish Catholique religion: thinking it to be their bounden duetie: also that they ought, hauing established their Monarchie, to endeavour them selues to force all other people, and nations vnto their Religion and discipline, and thorough the onely terrour of their armies, and power of their Empire, to determine all controuersies in al places & causes concerning Christian religion.

These thinges doe they not onely dayly in familiar speech giue out: but also in deedes, whiche are the

assured tokens, and in al their actions, counsailes and enterpises, aswel past as present, confirme: for their onely study, and the marke wherat they continually leuel, is, how they may, when they haue subdued the low countries, in the midst of the same establish an ordinary resort for the warres, from whence they may at al times at their pleasure and ease passe their armies in to *England, France, or Germany*, and so first with al rigour to entreate these whom they haue found most contrary to their enterpises, and afterward to prescribe vnto all other Christian Kings, Princes, and nations, whatsoeuer shal come in their heads, and thus excluding each from al help of other, and compassing them with their armies, to reduce vnder their yoke all those which willingly wil not yeelde vnto them already and perfect obedience.

This is the marke wherat they alwaies haue shot. To this ende haue al their counsailes, practises and deuises tended, as appeareth in that ha-  
uing



uing with their armies oppressed *Italy*, they sence not only extended their power into *Germanie* vnder colour of restoring religion, but also haue endeououred to subdue the whole estate and monarchie of Christiandome vnto their subiection.

And that I may the more plainly open this matter vnto you, moste mighty Kinges, Princes, and Magistrates. It is expedient orderly to set downe a brieve and manifest discourse of all the counsayles, dealinges and practises of the *Spaniards*, euen from the original of their enterprises vnto this time, to the end their purposes, driftes and deuises beeing detected and layde open to the whole worlde, we may in time apply and minister al conuenient and meete medicines to that mischiefe, which is so knowen to the whole christian common wealth. Wherein I will not vndoubtedly rehearse any thing, but that which haue bene done in the face of the whole worlde, and as it were, in so publique a theatre, that no man can be igno-

rant thereof, which thing whilest I do discourse and set before your eyes, I beseech you (noble Princes) vouchsafe to be attentive, and turning your affections from all opinions preiudicially conceaued, diligently to apply your mindes to consider, and vnderstand the assured and liuely truth of the whole affaires.

The *Spaniards* therefore, through the valiauncy of King *Ferdinando*, deliuered out of the bondage of the *Moors*, and by continuall exercise in Warres, growne so perfect and skilfull in armes, that he had conceiued a certaine opinion of himselfe, that he had either surmounted all other nations in warlike knowledge and fame, or at the least boorded the moste excellent, did immediatly cast his view vpon *Italy*, and in his heart deuised to attempt to subdue the same to his obedience, being thereunto especially moued, and allured by reason of the great plenty, and abundance of all thinges in the saide Countrie, which they had found and tried at such time  
as

as the *Arragons* (by nation *Spaniards*, and then ruling in *Naples*) had craued their helpe against the French armies: they had before encroched vpon the *French* the Ile of *Sicil*, being a very comodious place for passage of their munition, armyes, & souldiours, and very conuenient for the prouision of whatsoeuer were requisite & necessary either to the making of warre, or relieuing the wantes of their men.

Giuing ouer therefore the defence of the posterity of *Alfonse*, who had craued their helpe, they entred communication of accord with the *French* and so agreed to part betweene them al that prouince. But perceiuing the *French* to be slacke in their busines & slow in prosecuting this warre: taking occasiō of some cōtrouersie arising about their bounds, they renued the warres against them with all extremity, and yet so, that shortly after, propounding on bothe sides certaine conditions of peace, the same was through the helpe of Archduke *Philip* the king of *Castiles* neuw concluded:



By which policie, being in very good time put in vse for the staying of the French succour, which being leauied, was ready to march, it fel out that the remaynder of the French Armies, whom *Gonsalue* surprised neere the riuer of *Garillan*, was quite ouerthrown and as it were vtterly rooted out : So as the French, beeing by this meanes cleane expelled out of the Realme of *Naples*, it was an easie matter for the *Spaniards* there at their pleasure to build Forts and Castles, and the same to fortifie with strong Garrisons, and so to establissh a comodious seat, from whence they might afterwarde easely commaund ouer the rest of all *Italy*.

About the same time also the Bishop of *Rome*, hauing by his auctoritie made partition of the *Indies* between the *Portingales* and the *Castillians*, and by meanes thereof, as it had beene by some heauenly decree, they had with vnspeakable cruelty ransacked and wasted an incredible extent of Land, and so subdued to their gouernment all *America*, togeather with that great  
com-

cōpasse of the west *Indies* : also that at the same tyme they had ioyned to their Dominion that parte of *Gaule* which is called *Belgica*, by meanes of aliance contracted by the mariage of the sayde *Archduke Philip* : thinking them selues furnished with a sufficient and fit treasure for the conduct of the warres, as well by reason of the *Golde* and *spice*, which yearely they brought verie plentifully out of the *Indies*, as also through the great profit that dayly did arise of the ordinarie navigations and trafique of the *Flemish* Marchants in *Spaine*, (a matter of great encrease vnto their reuenues and ordinarie customes) they cast in their mindes no longer to forbear the inuasion and subduing of the rest of *Italy* : according to which determination, vnder pretence to ayde the *Sforces* against the French, they firste entred into *Lombardia*, a very rich and fruitfull cuntrye : There hauing first expelled the French, and then subdued and oppressed the *Sforces*, they strengthened it to their owne vse  
 with

with fortresses and strong Garrisons. They altered also the estate of *Florence*, *Siene*, *Pise*, and all *Tuscane*, in giuing them such a Duke as they knew to depend of them selues, and in all things to saue their attempts: and hauing confirmed the authority of the *Dorries* in the city of *Genes* (which beeing a verie commodious Hauen, was at that time molested with ciuil dissensions) they assured & bound it to their owne deuotions.

Finally vnder the fauour of the prouinces of the Lowe Countries, finding oportunitie (after that *Charles* was by the voyce of the electors chosen emperor) & making way through the sayde prouinces, they did diuersly molest the realme of *France*: Also vnder pretence of establishing the popish religion, they gaue a notable girden into the bowels of *Germany*, yea and that with so good successe, that hauing ouercomen, and in battail taken the protestant princes, they bent their whole minds assuredly to bring the same into subiection and so to ap-  
pro-



appropriate it to their own inheritance,  
& to that intent placed their spanish  
garifons in sundry Fortes, euen in the  
centre thereof.

Howbeit seeing that the naturall  
moderation and equitye of *Charles*  
coulede not be alured to fatisfie their  
so ambitious interprises: Also consi-  
dering that they were not long able  
to defend & keepe the places where  
their garrifons were lodged, as well  
for that they were to far from *Spaine*,  
as also because they were inuoyro-  
ned with such warlicke people and  
nations: And with all seeing them  
selues by Duke *Maurice* his armies  
expelled and so dryuen oute of all  
high *Germany*: besides that, not fin-  
ding such successe as they hoped for  
in the wars which sundry times they  
had renewed against the French: bee-  
ing wonderfullie chafed and much  
bewayling the taking of so notable  
and ritche a praye oute of their  
handes, they did of necesfitie stay  
the course of their purposes, and so  
proceeded no further in the pursuite  
of

of their enterprize : Thus refrayned they them selues vntill such tyme as the Emperour, being returned into *Spaine*, the ambitious, haughty and meere Spanish mind of King *Philip*, was found meete to satisfie their desire, and that thereby they tooke fit occasion to reenter, although an other way, into that path which before they were forced to forsake: For they considered that they could not safely at their pleasures conduct any army into *France* or *Germany*: Also that if they brought any, yet shoulde they want both munition and all other meanes wherewith to prosecute the warres, euen the first day, vnlesse before they had possession of the *Hauen*s of *Holland* and *Zealand*, & withall had established good and sufficient Spanish garrisons, throughout the *Prouinces* of the low *Countries*: that they had raysed new tributes and imposts for their payes: To be brieve, that they had chosen a conuenient seate from whence they might at ease continue and prosecute the war: But  
per-

perceiuing that they coulde not well  
 compasse any of all these pointes so  
 long as the priuiledges of the Coun-  
 trie ( which doth exclude all straun-  
 gers from the administation of their  
 estate , and admitteth no other then  
 home born parsons therein ) continu-  
 ed in force : Also that they might not  
 leauy any subsidy or new tribute: nei-  
 ther put Garrison in any place, with-  
 out the counsell of the estates , they  
 concluded among them selues, before  
 they prosecuted the inlarging of their  
 limites, that necessarily they must re-  
 strayne and brydle this the ouer large  
 liberty of the estates of the Country,  
 and depriue them of their priuiled-  
 ges, freedoms and ancient customes:  
 To be breese, that they must debarre  
 them from all such meanes, help, and  
 succour , as time out of minde had  
 stooode them in steade, for the mainte-  
 nance of the dignity and assuraunce  
 of those Prouinces : to the ende that  
 thus wresting and getting into their  
 owne hands the commoditie to erect  
 Castles & fortresses at their pleasures,  
 and



and to leauy new tributes & taxes as they liste : also to chose within these flourishing prouinces such a seate as in their opiniōs might seem most cōmodious for the wars, & so the whole being throghly brought vnder their subiection and by spanish legions assured vnto thē: they might in time to come vse the same for the assaulding of any whōsoeuer they listed. To this ende haue they euer since directed their whole studies, counsailes and actions, namely, either by hooke or crooke to find means to distribute in the prouinces of the low cōtries a garisō of ten thousand souldiers of the old bands: to the end that ioining therto the choice of the footmen of *Artoys* & *Henault*, & strengthening thē with the ordinary bands, whome the king according to the maner of the ancient Lords of the sayd couutries, doth vsually intertain, hauing also the frendship or aliance of some *German* prince, euen by oth bounde vnto them, or if possibly it might bee, getting the possession of some neighbour city of *Germany*, they  
may

may so oftē as occasiō shal serue, reen-  
 force the said power with a good nū-  
 ber of *German* horsemen, & so vpon  
 euery occurrence haue a cōpleat army  
 redy. For this intēt was Duke *Eric* of  
*Brunswick* at the first chōsen, whom the  
 king with an annual penitiō reteined:  
 the same time also took they cōūsel to  
 take *Coulogne* & *Munster*: but as the e-  
 stats of the low cōūtrys did obitinatly  
 refuse al spanish garisōs: & therwith in  
 stātly required the reuoking of those  
 out of the cōūtry which yet remained  
 of the french wars, vtterly refusing (in  
 case this were not performed) the aid  
 of money which was required at their  
 hands, it fell out that by reason of the  
 ouerthrow taken at *Felbes* in *Affrica*,  
 wherein the spanish legiōs were almost  
 quit consumed, the king, who very vn-  
 patiētly bare this demād at the hands  
 of the states, & was alredy resolved to  
 punish it as a treazō, being ouercome  
 with the necessity of his own affaires,  
 seemed to find it somewhat reasonable  
 & so suffered the reuoking of the said  
 bandes out of the countries, to the  
 end, with them to keepe and defende  
 the

the passages of *Italy* & *Spaine*, together with his houlds in *Africa*, against the ordinary incursions of the *Turkes* and *Moors*: being neuerthelesse fully resolved (as himselfe could not but confesse, which also the *Spaniards* in their writings haue testified) vpon the first commodity to returne the saide garrisons, who with armes & open force should blot out the iniury supposed to be wrought againste the *Spanish* name, and with a more stricke bonde should bridle and restrain the ouer great liberty and authority of al these prouinces.

For the compassing thereof, there fel out nothing more fitte and apparant then the Kings constant and perpetual desire, care and zeale, earnestly & strictly to establish the *Romish* religion in the lowe Countries, which caused him in all his letters written out of *Spaine*, ordinarily to accuse the *Duchesse of Parma*, and the chiefe Lords and Magistrates of the country, that they were not earnest enough in these causes: saying that he well perceaued



that vnlesse they vsed more violent remedies then afore tyme, the Romish religion woulde soone be extinguished throughout *Flaunders*, which for his part, he woulde neuer permit, but rather to hazarde what soeuer lands and kingdoms he yet possessed: Wherefore that he willed and ordeyned that the rigour of the edicts and placards of religiō, shuld be executed without dissimulation, and that they should not vpon any, what soeuer occasion be moderated, qualified or in anye wise mitigated: but rather that their strictnes shoulde be augmented, and increased: & to that end that they shuld create new Bishops whom they should make inquisitours for matters of Faith: that *Granuel* Archbishop of *Malines*, a little before become a cardinal, who by reason of his intollerable ambition and inordinate desire of gouernment, had incurred the malice of al estates, should be made head, and president of that colledge: that to the end the sayd bishops might more diligently attend to the said inquisitiō,

some of the spoiles of diuers Abots &  
 other Prelates of the countrey, whom  
 they accused to be to negligēt in per-  
 secuting & punishing of the heretiks,  
 shuld be distributed among them : &  
 with al that the hearing of all causes,  
 if neuer so smallye they pertained to  
 matter of religion, should be reserued  
 to them: whervpon euen at one time,  
 & by one means, al sorts of people of  
 the said cuntries were greuously offen-  
 ded. The princes & great Lords could  
 not patiently suffer the administratiō  
 of the affaires to be taken from them  
 & cōmitted to one *Gravel*, a new mā  
 & a stranger. The nobility coulde not  
 like that authority ouer their liues &  
 goods shuld (to the preiudice of their  
 country customes) be cōmitted to vn-  
 known, bergerly & base persons, who  
 coueting their goods & trefurs, might  
 easely find means to accuse & betraye  
 them. The magistrates & rulers of ci-  
 ties and towns did murmure that the  
 iudgments & priuiledges of the coun-  
 try, cōtrary to the kings oth so solēntly  
 sworn, shuld be taken frō them, & put  
 into

into the hands of rascals, & such as be  
 sids were by oth bound to a forraine  
 prince, the pope of *Rome*, and had al-  
 ready giuen out sufficient testimony  
 & prooffe of their cruelty & couetous-  
 nes: To be brieft, the whole cominal-  
 ty generally complained that in stead  
 of shepheards they were committed  
 to the custody of rauening wolues cō-  
 tinually gaping after their goods, so  
 that sundry merchants determined to  
 seek new habitations in forrain coun-  
 tries, which diuers of thē did indeed:  
 al these things being rehearsed to the  
 king in fundri suplications, petitions,  
 messages & ambassages (the states in-  
 stātly requiring that by such innouati-  
 ōs, so faithfula people to their princes  
 might not be forced any whit to de-  
 minish their accustomed obediēce) so  
 far was he frō giuing audiēce, or hark-  
 ning to their petitions, that contrari-  
 wise, obstinately refusing all their de-  
 mands, he would that euē the decrees  
 of the counsel of *Trident* (whereby in  
 maner al the lawes & customes of the  
 cuntry were infringed) should be pub-  
 lished throughout the said prouinces.



And in deede by that meanes hee found the comodity of the time so long looked for : For in case his preceptes tooke place, the aucthority of the inquisitours once established, and the lawes and customes of the countrey infringed, it would be no hard matter to put to death all such as had either aucthority or countenance among the people, and so also the Spanishe garrisons together with a new forme of regiment might easely be brought in: but contrarywise, if herein they refused to obeye his decrees ( as there was no other likelihood, considering how all sortes of people were by these demaundes oppressed ) then necessarily must insue both tumultes and disorder, for the pacifying whereof, the Spanish garrisons must needs be returned, and so how so ever the world went, the obstinate reiecting of the Kinges commaundement, should ( as a matter of Treason ) minister cause sufficient to chastize the people with fire and swoorde : Neither was he deceived in the event of this counsaile.

For

For some of the chiefe Nobility ha-  
 uing exhibited a certaine request into  
 the Court, wherein was prooued that  
 the kinges commaundement concer-  
 ning *Placards* was not onely pernici-  
 ous to the common wealth, but also  
 dangerous to thei selues, requiring  
 therefore that the publication of the  
 sayd *Placards* might cease, vntill the  
 king were informed of their demāds  
 by suche notable persons as to that  
 end should expresly trauail to his ma-  
 iestie: the people thereby conceiuing  
 hope of greater liberty, tooke vppon  
 them, ( and peraduenture somewhat  
 more then was requisite ) openlye to  
 professe the reformed religion, which  
 the king and *Spaniards* did so greatly  
 detest and abhor: This so honest and  
 aparant occasion ministred vnto the  
 king means, first to condemne such of  
 the nobility of treazon as had exhi-  
 bited the sayde request, and so to exe-  
 cute the ambassadours which by the  
 gouerneffe cōmandement went vnto  
 him, & then vnder the conduct of the  
 Duke of *Alua*, to send the old spanish  
 bandes

bandes into the low countries, to the end, vnder pretence of religion, to put to death al such of the chiefe lords & nobles of the country, as coulde not brook their demeanures: to establishe paines of death against al good men: to entangle the people with charges, impostes, & grieuous bondage: to erect fortresses & castles in their towns and finally to deprive the estates and magistrats of al aucthority: the nobility of al dignity & preeminence: the people of their subitance & welth: the towns of their lawes, customes, priuiledges & freedoms: and finally all the prouinces generally of their auncient honor, dignity & power, & so to open a way to the counsell so long before taken, for the establishing of the seate of their premeditated wars in the low countries. Al which things the world knoweth so wel: as also how the Duke of *Alva* hath endeavored to bring the to effect, that I shal not here neede to make any further demonstratiō or repeticiō. Vndoubtedly any man that wold open the eyes of his vnderstanding & narrow.



narrowly consider of these counsailes  
 & demenures, might plainly perceiue  
 that al these drifts tended not to the  
 subduing of the lowe countries, who  
 refused no kind of obedience, but ra-  
 ther to the laying of a firme founda-  
 tiō of the spanish monarchy that they  
 leuel at. And in deed the Duke of *Al-*  
*ua* immediatly vpon his arīual in the  
 low cuntries, determined to set vpon  
 the City of *Coulogne*, vnder pretence  
 that she had admitted into the nūber  
 of Burgeses the king of *Spayns* preten-  
 ded rebels, & at the same time sought  
 also to bring into his subiectiō the ci-  
 ty of *Mūsier* in *Westphaly*: both which  
 interprises had at one time takē place  
 had not the prince of *Orenge*, who the  
 had leuied a strong power in *Germany*  
 interrupted his whol deuises & vtter-  
 ly subuerted the course of his counsel  
 & practises: which notwithstanding, he  
 did not neuertheles forbear to pre-  
 scribe & cōmand lawes to the inhabi-  
 tants of *Coulogne*, or with great threts  
 to moue the magistrats to his obedi-  
 ence: At the same time also he firste

delt with the bishop of *Treuers*, (who promised al helpe and fauour in the aduancement of the Kings affairs) to the great preiudice of the Palatin elector of hapy memory, & after grew to debate with him for the chiefe town of his cuntry, which he affirmed to be vnder the King his maisters protection. He also limited to the Duke of *Cleue*, suche counsailours as should no otherwise gouerne his Countrey then as if it had wholly ben vnder the absolute commaunde of the king of *Spayne*: he sought to binde the Earle of *Emden* vnto him as his vassall vnder colour of protection and safegard: He commaunded the inhabitantes of *Liege*, to furnish him of weapons, furniture & victuals. To be brief, he executed vpon al borderers all absolute authority, commandement & power. And as for the princes that were farther off: first he quarrelled with the most high and noble Queene of England, vnder colour & pretence of entercourse, and emprisoned such English merchants, as vsually trafiqued in  
the

the said prouinces: he commaunded her to banish whō he list, whiles himselfe not onely harboured and friendly entreated in the low countries sundry lewd persons, which had beene attainted of treason against their so-ueraigne, but also enriched them with giftes and yearly pensions. By sundry deuises and driftes did they solícite the Queene of Scots (being then prisoner) to worke some new trecherous deuise: they loded with honor and rewardes the murderers of the regent of *Scotland*, vsing both thē, their counsailes and endeouours in sundry their affaires. And what not? they found means by the Popes bul to pronouce the Queene of *England* an heretique and vnlawful inheritor: They raysed troubles against her in the hart of her Realme: They put her in daunger of her life: They did by publication habandon her Realme to the first that woulde or could surprise or seaze vpon it, and expressely charged *Dona Iohn of Austria* perticularly, immediately vpon the quieting of the lowe coun-



countries to leauy mortall warre against her, to marrye the Queene of *scottes*, and with her to appropriate to him selfe the Realmes of *Englande*, *Scotlande*, and *Irelande*: These thinges when they could not compasse to their mindes, by reason of the warres reuiued amonge the Estates of the lowe Countries, they sought to bring to passe thorough *Irelande*, whether they transported, in outwarde shewe, in the Popes name, but in trueth by the commaundemente, motion and will of the King of *Spaine*, a number of *Italians* and *Spaniards*, that they passing through that ile, (which they hoped to finde wholly at their deuotion) into the realme of *England*, might the more commodiously subdue and bring it vnder their power and authoritie. And had not the King, at the Duke of *Aluarez* perswasion (who wondred at the difficulties and lettes that happened in this enterprise,) thought it best to referre this matter

ter to a more conuenient time, the waight of all this warre had longe since bene transported into *Englande* in hope that that beeing first gotten, the *Spaniard* thereby being at quiet on that side of the Sea, might haue a more ready way to subdue all the whole lowe countries.

And as for *France*, whiche by reason of the Kinges noneage was troubled with domesticall dissention, they omitted no manner of inuentions, or pollicies, but employed their whole industry, care and study to wrappe and entangle it more and more in ciuill warres, to the end, that when the same so flourishing, and mighty a Realme were with her own weapons almoste subuerted and destroyed, they might as their leasure, with more opportunitie, and as conueniēt time serued, with the lesse a do subdue it: neither neede I here much to stande vppon those meanes whiche they haue vsed to heape more coales vpon these ciuil flames: what helps they haue ministered to the  
nourishing

nourishing of these discordes, with what affection they haue trauailed in it, what actions among parties, clo- kinges, leagues and conspiracies they haue inuented wherwith to maintein and vpholde this miserable kindling: For the most Christian king doth euidently & wel know that diuers times they haue procured his subiects to rebel, and sought means again to bring them to take armes: yea and least any man should thinke they did it for zeale to their Catholique religion, they haue with promises of greate summes of ready monie sought to seduce the heartes of the Princes, defenders of the reformed religion: neither is he ignorant how often he hath ben informed that sundry times they haue endeououred to corrupt, seduce, and winne from their sworne allegiance the particuler gouernours of townes, fortresses, and hauens on the sea costes: how they haue with great diligence laboured euen the King of *Nauai*, promising him great summes of money in case he would break the  
peace



peace last concluded : yea howe they  
 haue proceeded euen to his highnes,  
 perswading him to take armes, to the  
 subuersion of the King his brother,  
 and the desolation of his whole king-  
 dome: whome when they perceyued  
 nothing prone to serue their milchie-  
 uous tournes, they haue sought to  
 make away with poyson and sworde,  
 hauing to that ende, hired expresse  
 murderers, who since haue by law ben  
 executed. I wil not here speake what  
 number of pensioners the King of  
*Spaine* hath bounde to his deuotion,  
 not onely in the priue council of the  
 King of *France*, but also of all other  
 Christian Kinges, Princes and poten-  
 tates, through whom he doth at his  
 pleasure trouble the estates of some,  
 procure the rising of others subiects,  
 ouerthrow and supplant whatsoeuer  
 counsailes are holden against him, and  
 to be brieft, make them determine  
 and like of all that he thinketh com-  
 modious to himself: This is manifest-  
 ly and well known to all Kinges and  
 Princes, to whose detriment these  
 thinges

things are put in practise: none dare the while speak any worde of al these matters or once open his lips against them: so greatly are all mens mindes ouertaken with feare and astonied at the onely name of the *spanish* nation.

What shall I say of our *Germany*? which being in greater daunger then any other Prouince, yea almost already swallowed vp in this monstrous gulfe of *Spanish* ambition, doth (as in outward shew it were sufficiently warranted) make no account of her own danger, weening that the fire which hath consumed her neighbors houses, & is entred euen into her own bowels doth no whit touch her at all: so that this Empire, which aforetime was wot so valiantly to defend, both her owne liberty and the liberty of al christiandome, doth now seem to be more cowardly & rechelesse in preuenting the establishing of that yoke that threatneth the whole world, then any other nation. It is euident that the King of *Spaine* hath in *Germany* not onely his p<sup>er</sup>soners & priuy whisprers which reueale

ueale to him al their Princes coũcels,  
 & enterprises, but also a publike cou-  
 sailour in the chamber of the empire,  
 by whõ he vnderstandeth the whole  
 affaires of al the countrie, & determi-  
 neth al maters as if he wer a prince of  
 the Empire in the degree of the rest.  
 He hath also his place by his Embas-  
 sadors in al the assemblies of the Em-  
 pire: he carefully cõsidereth of al that  
 is done in al their diets, he endeuou-  
 reth to learne all their secrets, & hath  
 no lesse intelligence & notice, the seuē  
 electors themselves: and what may be  
 more vnworthy, or more contumeli-  
 ous to the *German* natiõ, either more  
 dangerous & fit for the surprising of  
 their liberty, then not to cal any Em-  
 periall diet: any conuocation in the  
 Empire: any counsayle: any assem-  
 bly of estates: yea almoste execute a-  
 ny administration of priuate iustice:  
 without the presence, counsayle,  
 and (as I may almoste say) without  
 the will and commaundenent of the  
 Kinge of *Spaine*? But vnder what  
 pretence? forsooth by reason of the  
 pre-



precinct of *Burgundy*, which beeing numbred among the Imperiall precinctes, the king of *Spain* must be accounted among the Princes of the Empire. And what is this, most Noble Princes, other then a manifest mockery and contempt of you, your auctority, and auncient glory? Yea and wittingly, before your faces, and with your owne consent, a snarling of you in the haulter of Spanische bondage? The emperor *Charles* hauing by force oppressed *Germany*, and beeing inuironed with his spanish and Italian legions, called an Imperiall diet at *Ausburge*, as I weene in the yeare 1548: Wherein he declared that in diuers parts of the low countries there were sundry Townes and prouinces which in olde time were wont to take their lawes and be subiect to the Imperial chamber, wherevnto they did ordinarilye appeale: To be brieft, that they had alwayes beene holden and reputed among the precincts of *Germany*, wherevpon sundry and many questions and controuersies did oftentimes arise,

arise, he would therefore, saide he, at  
 once both end their quarrels, and doe  
 a great pleasure to all *Germanie*: and  
 therefore purposed to decree, that as  
 well those Prouinces which he had in  
 the nether *Germany*, as also the rest  
 that lay in the *Belgique Gaule*, beeing  
 reduced into an Emperiall precinct,  
 should from thenceforth be reputed,  
 holden, and tearmed, *The precinct of*  
*Burgundy*: and that in respect therof,  
 he and his succeffors should disburse  
 towarde the charges of the Empire,  
 twise so much as euery two Electours  
 were to contribute to the warres a-  
 gainst the *Turke*: and so they should  
 hereafter remaine exempt and free,  
 not onely from all kindes of contri-  
 butions and collections of mony, but  
 also from al iurisdiction of the cham-  
 ber, and the lawes and decrees of the  
 Empire. Here may we beholde the  
 price of the spoiles of our iurisdic-  
 tion, authoritie and power, also the  
 rewarde of our bondage: This is that  
 small summe of money wherewith  
 the moſte ſacred dignitie and free-  
 D dome

dome of our Empire is supplanted; & authority giuen to a foreine prince, (with whom we haue no bond of affinity, correspondence of language, neighborhod, or agreement of lawes and customes) to enter into our diets: to haue a place in our assemblies: to giue his voice in our Emperial chamber: to be brieft, to peruse and consider of al our counsailes, and actions, either publike or priuate.

If to serue a maister, notwithstanding he be neither rigorous ne haughty, be of it selfe a misery, who seeth not our Germany in moste miserable estate, where the King of Spaine may, if he wil, commaunde at pleasure? But what need I say, he might if he would, sith al the world doth plainly see that in effect he doth commande both far and neer? For what is it that the Spaniard hath not gained by the erectiō of this precinct of Burgundy? except that he doth not onely rule there at his pleasure, but also vseth al absolute authority ouer the precinct of Westphaly, which time out of minde was  
 accoun-



accounted one of the chiefest, and mightiest in all Germany: yea he so commaundeth there, that there is none which dare in any wise controll or gainsay him. As for example, Haue not the inhabitantes of Liedge hitherto obeyed his Empire: either the Duchyes of Cleue and Iuliers: and finally the whole territories of Coulogne, and Westphaly, beene at his deuotion? And yet not content with this kinde of commaundement, he seeketh after a newe sorte of obligation to subdue and conquere them, and so to extend his Empire generally ouer all Germany: Therefore to say nothing of those men, who being in possession almoste of all the straighes of Germanie, euen from the foote of the Alpes to the Ocean Sea, are moste readye to obey his commaundementes, and dare not refuse any of his requestes: neither to speake of those who being by bloud, alliance, league, and neere affinity vnited and knit vnto him, do commaund ouer Istria, Carinthia, Croatia, & the

most part of *Pannonia*, yea and beare  
 soueraigne authority euen in *Banaria*,  
 possessing all the heades and springs  
 of the Riuers of *Licus*, *Enus*, and  
*Danow*, and are peached ouer the  
 heades of *Augusta*, *Ratispone*, and  
 other mighty Imperial cities: to hold  
 my peace, also of those, who holding  
 as it were the rudder of the Empire,  
 (in hope hereafter to attaine to the  
 succession of the kingdome of *Spain*)  
 will not once oppose them selues a-  
 gainst his rising and might: who see-  
 eth not whervnto this vnquenchable  
 thirst & ambition of the young Duke  
 of *Banaria*, Bishop of *Frisinguen* doeth  
 tende? who beeing egged on by the  
 King of *Spaines* industrie, armed with  
 his authority, and kindeled with his  
 commaundementes, is so inflamed  
 and burneth in so wonderfull ambi-  
 tion, that he can not be satisfiied with  
 anye Bishoplike dignities or prince-  
 ly authorities whatfouer? he hath al-  
 most in a moment attained ynto so  
 greate and mightie power, that in  
 strength he may compare with sun-  
 dry

dry Kinges of *Europe*, and is iustly to be doubted of, and feared among all the Princes of *Germany*: And in truth there be sundry noble Realmes in *Europe*, which neither in greatenesse and extent: in multitude of people: in strength of souldiers: or in abundance of all thinges necessary, are to be compared with the principalities that pertain to his iurisdiction and are vnder his obedience: all which notwithstanding, he can not yet be quiet, but fryng and flaming in the ambitious fury of the *Spanish* nation, he coueteth and aspireth daily to greater matters: For he hath already by the King of *Spains* helpe and suite obtained, besides the Bishoppricks of *Frisinguen*, and *Hildesheim*, the principaltie ouer the countrie of *Liedge*, which in scituation, extent and power of people is nothing inferiour to any other Prouince: herevnto endeuoreth he also to ioyne the Electorship of *Coulogne*: for notwithstanding hitherto the Countrey of *Liedge* hath openly enough, and vnfayned-



ly aided and succoured the Spaniards with armour, artillery, victuals, and all other necessarye prouision for the warres, yet so long as the Bishop was any whit restrained in the awe of the Bishop of Coulogne, he thought it not good plainly to shew his mind, but although in effect he had submitted his whole estate to the Spanish obedience, yet did he still in words beare himself a newter: howbeit now to the end the Spaniard might without controlement commaunde at pleasure hee seeketh partely by force, partely by threatninges, and partely by the Popes authoritie to inuest him (or rather in his name and person him selfe) with the electorall dignitie, and Archebishoppricke of Coulogne, by whose meanes he may not onely prosecute his wars in the lowe countries, and nether Germany, euen with the weapons and power of Germanie it selfe: but also prepare the waye to subdue to his dominions all the vpper Germany

al-

also , and take into his handes the disposition of the toules and tributes due to the Electors, and other Princes, whiche haue alwayes ( most noble Princes ) beene accounted, and that iustly , the sinewes and preservation of the dignity and aucthority of your Empire : but beeing once losse, and through this newe election of the Archebishop of Coulogne, reduced into the power of a forraine Prince will be vnto you in steade of fetters and stockes, to kepe you from leauying warre in your necessities , and to force you to bowe downe your neckes to the Spanish yoke, so often or whensoever he shall thinke good.

For hereafter shall not King *Phillip* neede to trouble him selfe with making a bridge ouer the Rhyne as did *Iulius Caesar*, sith the chiefe city of the Empire, the Electoral see of Coulogne, & the Archbishops whole diocesse shal with the twinkling of his eie be as redy to obey him as ther Prince,

and so stand him in stead of a bridge, gate, and passage: what else shall the *Spaniards* neede whereby absolutely to commaunde ouer all *Germany*? to prescribe lawes, and ordinances at his pleasure? and to leauy warres against whom so euer he shall thinke good? vnlesse peraduenture he wanteth yet some haue in the mouth of the *Germane* sea wherby he may vpon euery, necessity transporte his souldiers out of *spaine*: But for that he hath provided, yea so well that he can not stand in neede of any more; for vnder colour of raising warre in *Friesland*, and transporting victuals into the lowe Countries, he earnestly craueth possession of the riuer of *Ems*: for the attaining whereof, he hath giuen commission to *Billy* the *Portingale* so to deale with *Erisart* Earle of *East Friseland* his vassal, that he would as it were in loane and for a tyme graunt him the vse of the Towne of *Emden*: Offering in recompence and rewarde for so greate a benefite, the propriety of the Towne of *Groening*,  
(which



(which beeing enuyroned with the Spanish forces, and secluded from all commodity of victuals, he may recover when he list) also the gouernment of *Burgundy* with the reuenues, demaynes, and other the commodities thervnto belonging, retayning neuerthelesse his ordinary garrisons in the same. If he may obtayn this, then shal he get into his power all the principal riuers of *Germany*, namely *Danowe*, *Rhine*, *Like*, *Aene*, *Meuse*, *Moselle*, and *Ems*: And as by his kindered, alyes & vassals he hath all the lande passages open vnto him, so now shall there be no thing by sea able either to breake his power, or slacke the course of his enterprises. Finally also calling to mind the difficulties and lets which the inuincible force of neither *Saxony* ministred in the affaires of the Emperour *Charlemaine*: Also remembering how the one onely towne of *Maydenberge* beeing abandoned of all her neighbours and alyes, did neuerthelesse keepe footing against the victorious army of the inuincible Emperour

rouer *Charles* the fifth his father: stop-  
ped the course of his victories, yea &  
wholly brake his power, he hath  
found meanes to minister a medicine  
and provide a salve for this soare, to  
the end there might be no stop to let  
the aduancement of his Empire in  
*Germany*. For he hath by his ende-  
uours so dealt with the Pope and the  
Emperour, that besides all the pre-  
fermentes before mentioned, they  
haue by faithful promise bound them-  
selues to conferre to the *Bauarian*,  
the Bylhoprick of *Maidenborow*, that  
is to say, the whole power of Saxony.

And for his part, he accompteth it  
no difference, whether by him selfe,  
or by his deputy, vassall, kinsman or  
confederate wholly affected to the  
furtherance of his enterprises, he get  
the possession of any thing: Besides  
that hee is particularly and assuredly  
perswaded, that by this bishop he  
may haue authoritie to commaunde  
what he please: All which notwith-  
standing, he is not yet content, but to  
remooue all manner of stumbling  
blockes

blocks out of his way he endeuoreth by all diligent meanes and practizes to create him Primate of all Germany, and so to deale, that by his will and onely authoritie all ecclesiastical Prebends and promotions through out Germany may be conferred and gyuen to whom he list.

And do you not yet feele (most noble Germaine princes) that the king of Spaine ( I will not say onely solliciteth earnestly ) but already possesseth and keepeth in his hands the state of the whole Empire? That it is he who hauing forcibly supplanted the lowe countries, shal be Lord of al the ports and hauens of the Occean sea, & the mouthes of all riuers in Germany? That it is he that at his pleasure shal exclude you from all benefite and vse of trafique : That seeketh the dominion ouer the riuer *Ems* ? That seizeth vpon and dispolet all your tributes, toules and reuenues? That prescribeth Lawes and ordinaunces to the inhabitauntes of Gleeue lande, Tuliers, Liedge, and Westphalye?  
that



that would bring the state of *Coulogne* to his obedience? that it is he whose Kinsmen confederates and retheyners doe commaunde ouer great nations and large prouinces in *Germany*? that it is he who personally being in *Spain*, hath neuerthelesse his seat and voyce in all your assemblyes and imperiall dyets? that it is he that spieth, considereth of and noteth all your counsailes, actions and most secret affaires? that it is he that doth not onely commaund, forbid, establishe, and confirme what so euer he listeth, but also giueth & appointeth vnto you the bishops of *Trisinghem Heldeſheim* & that establishe eth princes & electours of the Empire at *Coulogne*, *Liege*, & *Maydenburg*? and to be brieſe, that it is he who seeking dominion ouer the mighty ecclesiasticall state of our nation, nominateth a Primate in *Germany* at his deuotiō? and to supply all these roomes, presenteth vnto you one only persō, one onely man, and him such a one as is very neare vnto him in bloud, affinitie and confederacie, and bound vnto him

him by the law of protection: also for a number of benefites receiued at his hand, wholly subiect to his ordinaunces: Yea such a one as he is assured, will not speake, doe, or attempt any thing without his will and commandement. And finally that man who he knoweth will through infinite controuersies that he hath with many of the *German* princes, kindle such a fire of diuision and discorde throughout the whole Empyre as can neuer be quenched, but by the vtter subuersi-  
 on of all *Germany*. For who knoweth not that great and old quarrel that is betweene him and the noble Dukes of the house of *Brunswick* for the title of a thousand and one villages that he requireth of them, Which vndoubtedly he will not forget, ne suffer so to sleepe: Or who is ignorant of the enuious emulation that is between this family of *Bauer* and the County *Palatins* for the preeminence of the electorate of the Empire? Or how they do complaine that it was taken from their name, stocke and family? Which  
 quar-

quarrell if this bishop ( when hee is  
 through your silence and at the king  
 of Spaines pursuite growne to such  
 aucthority ) doth renewe, as vndoub-  
 tedly he will : how many wofull tra-  
 gedies wil it breed in Germany? what  
 a gap will it open to the spanish tiran-  
 ny and our bondage? and finally what  
 ouerthrowe, sorowes and desolation  
 wil it bring vpon our miserable, folish  
 & vnadvised country? & yet most (no-  
 ble princes & excellent estates of the  
 empire) you do not onely beare with  
 these thinges & say nothing, but also  
 taking your sound rest, and careles of  
 all, you are become idle gazers (as it  
 were for plesure, vpon the ouerthrow  
 & calamities of your next neighbours)  
 yea, notwithstanding this so daunge-  
 rous a fier hath burned their houses  
 almost to the ground, & be kindled at  
 your gats, & is euen come so neere, as  
 to scortch your very beds, yet do you  
 not thinke the matter to touch your  
 selues. either that it is time for you to  
 withstād the practises of so ambitious  
 and haughty a Prince.

And



And what is to be sayde to all other  
 kinges, princes, and eittates of Chri-  
 stendom? Euen that the like sloth and  
 slugishnes detaineth them euery one:  
 For while the onely low countries do  
 oppose them selues againste the king  
 of Spaines tyranny, and doe giue al o-  
 ther kings, princes and christian com-  
 mon wealthes time, leasure, and opor-  
 tunity to turne away this bondage, &  
 by their example do shew how easie a  
 matter it is not only to shake, but also  
 euen vtterly to vndermine & subuert  
 these foundations of tyranny, there is  
 none of the al that wil once seeme to  
 mislike of a matter of so great impor-  
 tance? But as if purposedly each one  
 endeouored to augment & increase the  
 spanierds power to their own destruc-  
 tion, sitting with their armes a crosse  
 or leaning on their elbowes they doe  
 permit & suffer the low countries (al-  
 ready wasted and consumed with the  
 force & long continuance of this war)  
 in such wise to quaille & deminish, that  
 being at their wits ende, they knowe  
 not what counsayle to take, either  
 what

what other course they may best followe.

The King of *Fraunce* beeing daunted with his brother the Duke of *Anieowes* rashe and vnaduised attemptes, gazeth vpon the fier which kindleth farre and neere among his neighbours : thinking him selfe per-aduenture of force sufficient to keep and defend both him and his estate, The Duke of *Anieow* not knowing what to doe, can neither determine nor perceiue what is good for him selfe. Others likewise, wondering at the Realme of *Portingale* which the the *Spaniard* hath newly conquered, do sit still, as not resolued what counsell to take. The *Spaniard* in the meane time, ouer aweth all the low country with his whole power, and finding none to withstand him, layeth firme & assured foundations of his so long coueted Monarchy : So that through the onely terror of his name, strength and power, his fanie is blown al ouer, euen into the vttermost partes of the East and West, and so in effect he appropriateth

proprیاتeth to himself only, the name of *Vniuersall*, which aforetime the Byshopps of Rome haue entituled him withall. Which prediction doeth in trueth (most noble Kings, princes and Christian Magistrates) threaten vnto you a miserable bondage, and throggh your negligence promifeth vnto him a Catholike power, that is to say, an vniuersall dominion and tyrannie ouer all nations and prouinces, vnlesse in time your selues doe seeke some remedie.

King *Phillip* of *Macedon*, was iustly suspected of the *Greciās*, because that subduing certaine people of *Thracia*, their neighbours, they feared that he pryed into the liberties of the rest of all their countries: and therefore the *Athenians* doubting lest the fire of ambition that consumed his bowels would braist out, and not onely kindle in *Grecia*, but euen consume all *Asia*, thought it requisit with the common power and strength of *Greece* to suppress and breake his might: neither was their suspition in vaine as the e-

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uent



uent shewed: for notwithstanding king *Philip* being preuēted by death could not compasse and bring to effect the imaginations of his minde, yet did he leaue to his sonne *Alexander* suche a choice number of souldiours & warriors, that the young man being ambitious, did through their force and valiancy subdue not onely all Greece, but also Asia, Siria, Babilon, Persia and Egypt: and hauing scoured all ouer euen to the ends of India, and Scithia, did in a small time erect and establisth the third and chief monarchie of the worlde after the Persians. All which notwithstanding, we do not yet feare the ambitious power of the King of Spaine, neither thinke it necessary to suppress his vnreasonable forces, who not in one place onely, but in many and diuers, hath his whole armies of olde bandes, and practised souldiers, whom he still doth mainteine in ordinary garrisons: & hath ready at all as- saies aboue 30000. men of war: who hath extēded the limits of his Empire into Affrica, Asia, Europe, and Ameri-  
ca,

ca, euen to the East, and West Indies: who by Sea hath ouerthrown the power of the Ottomans: who hath ioyned to his kingdom al Portingale with innumerable other Ilandes, and moſte flourishing kingdomes: who ruleth Italy, which was wont to command ouer all the world, as it pleaſe him: who is Lord of ſundry portes and hauens in Affrica: who euery where poſſeſſeth the Ocean Sea: who hath in his power the chiefeſt Ilandes and hauens of the mediterranean ſea: & to be brieſe who through the only terrour of his name, decreeth, commandeth and effectually fulfilleth what he liſt among all Princes and Chriſtian nations.

Howbeit if any man weene that contenting him ſelf with ſo large an Empire, he will not hereafter attēpt any thing but what equity & law ſhal permit: vndoubtedly the ſame is willingly deceiued, & flattring himſelf, hat h no care of his own honor, liberty, or life. For firſt the deſire of gouernmēt is vnſatiabſe, & like to a flaming fire, which the more ſtuf & mater that it findeth,

2

the

the further it doth stretch and extend it selfe, waſting all as it goeth. Againe who ſeeth not that by this manifeſt vſurping of Portingale, euē in the face of the whol world, the king of Spaine meaneth not to ſubmit himſelfe to any lawes, rytes, or capitulations whatſoeuer. For if he had thought himſelf to haue had any right in the ſayde ſucceſſion, why did he by force preuent the lawes? or by fire and ſworde the holy decree of the Iudges? wherefore hath he abuſed King *Antony*, the Queene, mother to the moſt chriſtian King, the Duke of *Bragrance*, & euen the Prince of *Parmas* ſonne: and to be briefe, all thoſe that pretended any title to the ſayd kingdome?

Shall we then yet thinke that either conſcience, iuſtice, or equitie can take place in him, who ſo euidently hath declared that in matter of gouernment he will not take or meaſure his right, other then with the power and force of his armies? that hee, who with his money hath armed the Turke againſt the Venetians, & ſo turned that ſtorm  
from



from himselfe vnto his confederates in Ciprus, can thinke himselfe bound vnto any couenants, treaties, or agreements whatsoeuer? That that mans fierie ambition, who hath not kept any couenants with the inhabitants of Grenado, the Indians, or Flemings any longer then he founde them profitable to himselfe, cā be stayed by any bonde of league or confederacie of aliance? Either what conscience, right or lawe can binde him, who by the principles or precepts of his religion, together with the Byshopp of Romes authoritie, thinketh himselfe released from all bondes of fayth or promise? shall we hope that he, who could not by any bonds of mariage be restrayned frō Incest: for any loue or duetie of matrimony abstaine frō adultery: for any naturall loue forbear parricide: or for any sworne fayth refrayne from periurie: being besides so ambitious as all men know: so desirous to enlarge the bounds of his Empire, & so far transported with pursuit of reuenge, may by any proposition of c-

3

quitie

quity, right, lawe, or Iustice be cooled and brought to reasonable order in whatsoeuer matter? As if it were not as lawful for the Bis. of Rome to dispēse, by his Bul, as wel with the lawes, bounds and limits of kingdomes and Prouinces, as with the bands of matrimony, and faith so solemnly sworne. But to what purpose is it for vs to think vnder pretence of law & iustice to moderate that mans ambitiō, who hath bene long resolved, that he hath lawfull and iust title, to inuade other mens kingdomes, and if he may to bring the same into his subiectiō?

For among all princes, potentates, and Christian common wealthes, who is there against whō he thinketh not him selfe long since to haue had sufficient and iust cause to moue warres? He will accuse the King of Fraunce, that he did not onely not hinder his brothers attempts in Flanders, but also ayded him with men, money, and Weapons, and so beganne the warres: That in the behoofe of the Queen his mother, he hath in warlike  
maner

maner assaulted the Ilandes appertei-  
ning to his obedience, fought with  
his nauie: and not onely receiued &  
harboured *Don Anthony* his enemy &  
supposed rebel in his kingdome, but  
also aided and assisted him both with  
men and money: also that he succou-  
red the low countries as much as pos-  
sibly he could.

To the Queene of England he will  
alleage, that first by the Popes Bulles  
she is denounced an heretique, and  
therevpon excommunicated: then,  
that in diuerse dealinges both by Sea  
and by land she hath shewed herselfe  
to be his enemy: that in her domi-  
nions she hath harboured and ayded  
his enemies, with men, munition,  
money and shippes: that she hath fa-  
uoured *Don Anthony* in all his enter-  
prises: and that vppon euery oppor-  
tunity she hath intercepted his nauie  
and treasure comming from the In-  
dies.

Amongest the Germaine Princes,  
some he wil accuse for succouring the  
Prince of Orenge, and others for their



parsonal presence in the Flemish wars  
 Against some he wil raise controuer-  
 sies in respect of their territories by  
 means of the Bishop of Frisenguen, &  
 against others for the preeminence of  
 the electorate: & generally he wil ac-  
 cuse al to be either heretikes, or to be  
 confederate with those that haue sha-  
 ken of the Bishop of Romes obediēce  
 whome altogether the Pope will ( as  
 heretofore he hath done ) command  
 to be by force reduced to their due-  
 ties. And I pray you, is not al this suf-  
 ficient to serue for a very good colour  
 to make him , who accounteth of all  
 the Popes precepts, as of heavenly re-  
 uelations: And of his excommunica-  
 tions, as of celestiall thunderboltes, to  
 assaile them? Who of him selfe is a  
 sworne enemy to religion, abhorring  
 it as the plague of the worlde: who in  
 all his counsailes , purposes, practises,  
 and leagues that euer he made , hath  
 no other meaning but to roote it out  
 and quight to suppress it? and who  
 being the most ambitious prince aliue  
 doth yet protest that he had rather  
 lose

lose all his dominions and dignities,  
 then leaue any sparke of this religion  
 vnquēched? And to be brief, who ma-  
 keth no more accounte of the Ger-  
 maines, then if they were Turkes, Sa-  
 razens or Moores. Yea, will not the  
 Pope thinke him selfe to haue as full  
 power after his thunderbolts of ex-  
 communication, to exhibite Germa-  
 ny as a pray to king *Philip*, as had his  
 predeceffours to giue it to his Father  
 the Emperour *Charles*? Pope *Paule*  
 the thirde and his predeceffour *Cle-*  
*ment* the feuenth did threaten *Charles*  
 the fifth with excommunications,  
 because hee thought it requisite  
 to pacifie the trouble (arising in Ger-  
 many for matter of religion) rather  
 by the aucthoritie of a general coun-  
 cell, then by proceedinge by force of  
 armes: yea in the ende with their  
 thonderboltes of excommunication  
 they droue that good prince (for still  
 he relented to them) to such an exi-  
 gent, that as an extreame remedie, he  
 was forced to make wars with al ex-  
 tremitie. And shall we now think that  
 the

the Pope do want means to perswade the king of Spaine (who of himselfe is sufficiently inclyned that way) that he hath iust cause by meere strength to reduce them to the faith of the Romishe Church? If any man thinke that the feare hereof toucheth no more but the protestant princes, also that they which still haue perseuered in Popery need not doubt or mistrust any thing: Let him call to mind that the Henries, Ottoes, Frederickes and other most mightye, and in all commendable vertues, most excellēt Emperors your predecessors (most noble princes) did in their daies professe the same faith & religion with the popes, and yet coulde not escape their thunderbolts and most wrongfull excommunications: But that some of them see their Empyres translated and gyuen to forraine princes: Others came bare footed and bare headed to aske them forgyueneffe, and submitting them selues to be troden vnder the Popes feete could not neuerthelesse mollifie their mindes without suffering



ring great iniuries & tollerating notable abuses: Let him suppose that the Pope wanteth no occasions to arme the Spaniard to the destruction of the Germanes, seeing that they which be of his owne religion, do not onely not oppose them selues against the protestantes, but also daily enter a legue, amity, and firme alyauce with them: Let him coniecture that the spanierds not beeing able to subdue Germany to their own dominiõ, neither to reduce it to the Popes obedience, vnlesse to that end, they contract amity with the rest, eyther in respect of ancient aliance, or by right of protection, or for feare of their armies: it is necessary for the Germans to stande to one of these conditions, namely, either to ioyn with the spaniardes in the conquest of their fellow cuntry me, or els vniting their whole forces together, to take armes against thẽ for the deliuary of al Germany out of their bondage: This vnles they doe spedely take in hãd, & so vsing the occasiõ of the affairs of the low coutries doe

doe cutte off the encrease of the *Spanish* power, they shal hereafter in vain each after other, endeuour to turne away the force of their tyrannie.

Certainly most noble princes, the King of *Spains* power is great: and yet is it such, that as by your sufferance, (I had almost said slouth) the foundations therof haue sprong and growen forward, so may it again by your vnion as easily be shaken, and finally with small labour by your power and concorde be brought to vtter subuersion. For all the Prouinces of his obedience do lie separate a great way each from other, whereby their victuals may easily be cut off, their forces debarred, and their strength vtterly ouerthrowen, in case you will but of your selues helpe your selues, and not suffer Italy: by a list running thorough the middest of Germany to be ioyned with Flaunders. A matter so much the easier for you to compasse, for that you see euidently, how al nations do abhorre their great tyranny, and attend no other but opportunitie

tie to free themselves out of their bō-  
 dage. Neithe are you ignoraunt with  
 how weake a power, and with what a  
 handfull of men, or smal beginnings,  
 the Prince of Orenge hath wasted &  
 brought to naught their great enter-  
 prises, & consumed their mighty ar-  
 mies: what a while the low countries  
 (destitute of al aide and bereaued of  
 succour) haue borne the brunt of so  
 mighty a Prince: also in what daun-  
 ger within these fewe yeares *Don Iohn*  
 of Austrich, & of late daies the Prince  
 of Parma were of being driuen out of  
 all the said low countries with their  
 whole power: yea & that at that time,  
 had not sundry prouinces by reason  
 of ciuil dissention departed from the  
 general vnion: & the Duke of Aniw  
 through peruerse counsaile let slip his  
 good fortune which he possessed, they  
 had not only abādoned Flanders, but  
 also peraduētūre limited their domi-  
 nions with the Pirinean mountaines.  
 So that as you are not to cōtēne their  
 might & suffer it thus to growe on, so  
 haue you no cause most noble Princes  
 to



to fear the greatnes therof, or to dant  
you frō valiant defence of your selues  
or reucnge of the common liberty.

The king of Spains power can not  
greatly hurt you, if in time you see to  
your businesse: If you neglect not the  
warres of the low cōtries: if through  
your authority you vndermine al Bil-  
lies purposes concerning the riuer of  
Ems: if you repress the fiery ambitiō  
of the Duke of Bauier togeather with  
his exceeding affection to the king of  
Spain: if with the most christiā king, if  
with the right excellēt Queen of Eng-  
land, & al other christian princes and  
potentats you do earnestly cōsider of  
some necessary meanes to suppressie  
this their ouer great power and au-  
thority. But if contrariwise you suf-  
fer the inhabitauntes of the low cun-  
tries, your next neighbours (through  
the spanish power almost wasted ) yet  
to be cōsumed with the strēgh of Ger-  
many: if you hould your peaces when  
you see the inhabitants of Cleueland,  
Iuliers, & Coulogn euē quake for fear  
at the precepts of the king of Spain: if  
you force not the inhabitāts of liedge  
to

to ayd the cōmō enemy with money,  
munition & wepons, as hitherto they  
haue opely don: If you bridle not the  
vile ambition of the Duke of Bauier,  
but suffer him to ioyne the Archbi-  
shoprick of Coulogn & electorial dig-  
nity to his authority: If you restraine  
him not from ioyning his forces with  
the spanish to the destruction of Flan-  
ders, and exclude not the spaniard frō  
al the hauens of the Ocean sea: doubt  
not but Flāders being brought vnder  
the yoke. Germany deuided into fac-  
tions: France consumed in ciuill wars,  
or with drawn into sundry opiniōs &  
diuers affections: the terror of the spa-  
nish name, & waight of his empire wil  
become a mighty tépest & ineuitable  
inundation, which hauing pierfed the  
causies, ditches & bāks, wil shortly be  
sufficient through the fury of his am-  
bitiō to incroch al christédō together.  
Against which procedings if any man  
wil thē oppose himself, either by force  
or otherwise, he shal (though to late)  
finde that which in the beginning of  
our discourse wee haue set downe,  
namely,

namely , rhat fit opportunitie to doe well being once escaped vs (which will netter be recouered either by intreaty or compulsion) wil cry vengeaunce against vs , and bring vppon vs that plague which our rechlesnes and negligence doth deserue.

This prognostication I beseeche God to turne from all Christendom, especially from Germanie, my sweete countrie: most earnestly desiring him in the name of our Sauour I E S V S C H R I S T, that he will vouchsafe in his holy spirit to assise all your counsailes (most noble princes of the empire, & you al other christian Kings, Princes and magistrates) and therewith so gouerne, conduct and frame all your enterprises and determinations, that you may conclude vpon , and put in execution whatsoeuer shal seem most iust, profitable, requisite, and necessary for the benefite of all Christendome, the glory of his holy name, and the wealth and saluation of his people.

F I N I S .



